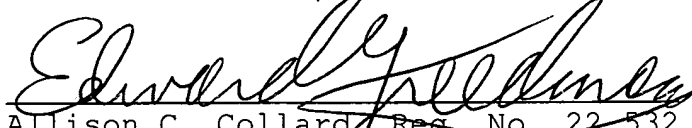


**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1, claims 1 through 13 have been cancelled and new claims 14 through 24 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MANFRED HUBINGER, ET AL - 1 PCT



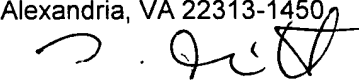
COLLARD & ROE, P.C.  
1077 Northern Boulevard  
Roslyn, New York 11576  
(516) 365-9802

Allison C. Collard, Reg. No. 22,532  
Edward R. Freedman, Reg. No. 26,048  
Attorneys for Applicants

Express Mail No. EV 621 913 628 US

Date of Deposit March 25, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed as MAIL STOP: PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ingrid Mittendorf